

Search ongoing for missing angler

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer
5-19-87

A search was continuing today for a missing fisherman at Deer Creek Reservoir.

The fisherman disappeared under the surface of Deer Creek Reservoir on Sunday after swimming nearly 30 yards in order to recover a fishing lure and bobber. The fishing tackle had broken loose from his line.

The missing man has been identified as Craig Bird, 29, of Kearns, a father of three children.

Wasatch County Sheriff Edd Thacker said search and rescue teams launched a search after sheriff's dispatchers were told around 6 p.m. that a fisherman had slid beneath the surface of the water.

The man had been fishing with companions on the southwest shore of the reservoir less than a half mile from the dam.

Thacker said two fishing companions warned the missing man not to attempt to recover his lost tackle, telling him it would probably float into shore anyway, but their warnings went unheeded.

After swimming nearly 30 yards toward his missing tackle, he called back to his



Herald Photo/Lane Critser

Emergency personnel drag for the body at Deer Creek.

companions saying he was experiencing muscle cramps in the cold water.

One companion swam to his aid, but his friend disappeared under the surface before he could reach him. Furthermore, the would-be rescuer also began to experience muscle cramps in the cold water.

A search continued Sunday, and then was postponed sometime after dark.

Searchers resumed their search Monday morning with drag lines pulled by boats. Search dogs from the Utah County Sheriff's office were brought in Monday morning to help locate the scent of the missing fisherman. And Thacker said the dogs did help to narrow the search pattern.

"The water is about 50 degrees immediately at the surface, but just a couple of feet below its 40 degrees," said Thacker.

As the search proceeded, the missing man's wife who learned of the search at her home in Kearns, arrived at the scene to follow the search efforts.

She remained at Deer Creek through Monday.

Search reduced for fisherman drowned Sunday in Deer Creek

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Wasatch County Sheriff's Department brought in underwater divers Tuesday to aid in the search for a fisherman lost since Sunday evening in Deer Creek Reservoir.

But the dive team from the Utah County Sheriff's department was unable to locate the missing man. By this morning, the man was still missing.

Craig Bird, 29, of Kearns was fishing with companions Sunday evening when he swam about 30 yards into the reservoir to recover his lure and bobber that had come loose from his line.

He yelled back to compan-

ions that he was experiencing muscle cramps in the cold water and before another companion could reach him, he disappeared below the surface.

A search has continued during daylight hours since Sunday. But the search has been reduced today, said a Wasatch County dispatcher.

"We will be sending someone out this afternoon to see if the victim floats to the surface," said the dispatcher.

Tim Woolf, team captain of Utah County Sheriff's underwater search and rescue team said search conditions at the mountain reservoir were difficult.

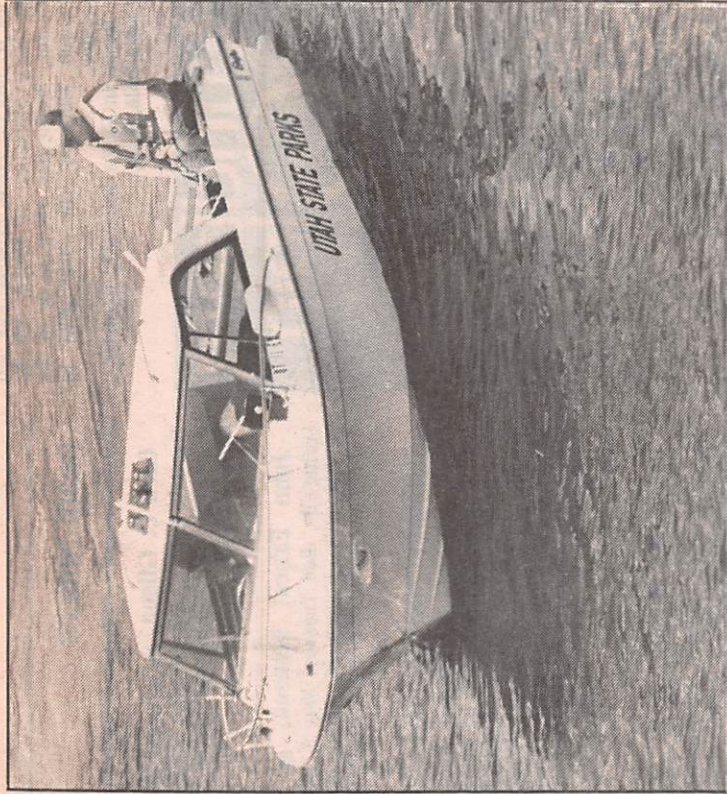
"The water is super cold

and even felt very cold through our dry suits. It's not far from ice water below the surface," said Woolf.

He said the area being searched was 200 yards from Deer Creek Dam's outflow grate, about 150 feet under the surface near the barrier buoys located near the dam.

He said if the victim was dragged by currents to the outflow grate he will not likely ever be recovered," surmised Woolf.

The team captain said that his eight divers search a pattern to 100 feet deep near where the missing man was last seen and where search dogs picked up a scent on Monday.



Herald Photo/Lane Critter

Officials today reduced the search for the angler.



The Utah National Guard 117th Corps of Engineers (AFBR) practices their assault float bridge construction skills at Deer Creek Reservoir Saturday prior to beginning a recruiting effort to establish a 117th detachment in Wasatch County. See story on Page 7B.



Searchers attempt to locate the body of a Kearns man, who drowned in Deer Creek late Sunday afternoon, while fishing. At press time Tuesday, searchers had been unable to locate the victim.

5-12-89

10 May 1989

Editorial

A Heber Valley Guard Unit Could Solve Some Problems

People from the Utah National Guard will be at the Wasatch County High School Friday to demonstrate some of their equipment and, of course, to get started on recruiting some students for a local platoon. It could offer some answers for some of our students' problems.

For one thing, the Guard provides something constructive to do, at least one weekend a month and a couple of weeks a year, for money. It might be a nice change for kids who spend most of their weekends dragging Main Street and most of their summers just hanging out, neither of which is financially profitable or constructive.

Those kids who give in to peer pressure that gets them into trouble will have an opportunity to experience a different group of peers, who work together constructively, and are kept out of trouble, even if they are tempted. In fact, kids can bring along their peers and the whole bunch can learn a new lifestyle.

Students without adequate skills to compete successfully in the job market and without the finances for advanced schooling, can choose from a long list of educational opportunities and be paid well while they take advantage of them.

Boot camp is, of course, a scary thing to deliberately sign up for, even without the standard head-shaving. Although the pay isn't bad, it's not enough to ask for that kind of abuse. But when people graduate from boot camp, and just about everybody does, they know they have accomplished something tough, and that they can accomplish a lot more because not many things are tougher. It can do wonders for low self-esteem.

Leadership abilities are cultivated and rewarded in the Guard. Followers have worthwhile mentors to lead them. Everyone benefits.

And what they learn during those times when they are serving in the Guard, can't help but spill over into the rest of their lives.

On top of all that, the Guard can be fun.

We know it's not all sweet and light. Young people in the National Guard can end up in the middle of a war. And most of us who have had any experience with the military, even in peacetime, can tell at least a few negative stories.

The fact is that all our healthy young sons are automatically available in case of war. At least those already in the Guard would serve with friends who care about them and that they've already learned to work with. They would be trained far better than other recruits and that's an important advantage when life is at stake. What's more, they wouldn't be just dumped with their rifles along with the other soldiers on the front lines, but would have assignments that they had chosen for themselves.

We don't mean this as an endorsement of the military. Certainly it is not for everyone. We simply believe the Guard offers some excellent alternatives to far less desirable situations and should be seriously considered by some of our young people.

Fisherman Drowns In Deer Creek

5-12-89
Searchers have not been able to locate the body of a Kearns man, who drowned near Deer Creek Dam, Sunday afternoon, trying to recover a lure he had lost while fishing, according to the Wasatch County Sheriff's Office.

called for help, saying he was getting cramps. A friend, August Peterson, said he tried to swim to Bird, but the victim went underwater and Peterson couldn't locate him.

Witnesses reported Craig Bird, 29, had been fishing with friends when he lost the lure about 20 to 30 yards from shore. He changed into swimming shorts and was swimming toward the lure when he

Aiding the Wasatch County Deputies in the search for the body are County Search and Rescue volunteers, Utah County deputies, friends of the victim, and private citizens from Wasatch County.

Fire Causes \$13,000 In House Damages

5-12-89
A fire that started on an electric stove Monday morning, flashed through a Wasatch County house about two miles north of Heber City on U.S. 40. It was quickly doused by firefighters, but not before causing \$13,000 in damages, Fire Chief Jerry Davis reported.

Clyde Montgomery, secretary of the Fire Department, said the fire apparently started when an electric burner was left on and ignited some items on the stove. The home is a

rental owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Keeling.

Firefighters were called to put out a car fire at the Heber City Cemetery Tuesday morning. Montgomery said Launa Young reported that as she drove along a cemetery road, her car started to smoke and that the hood was too hot for her to open it. It only took a few minutes for firefighters to douse the flames, but the car was apparently totalled.

Trout and perch at Deer Creek

Gill netting reveals reservoir data

By JOHN BEST
Herald Correspondent

DEER CREEK — The sun reflected brightly from the gentle waves in Wallsburg Bay in early morning as a small Division of Wildlife Resources survey boat chugged around the lake pulling nets from the cold water.

DWR biologists are examining trends in fish populations and conditions through the annual spring gill netting program at the reservoir. The main purpose of the gill netting program is to measure survival and growth of trout, yellow perch and walleye, said Bob Spaholtz, a fisheries biologist.

Gill netting operations begin in late evening when large nets are stretched in strategic places in the

Utah outdoors



Heavy pressure on Provo

By REX C. INFANGER
Herald Correspondent

YUBA — Fishing is still slow. A few small walleyes are being picked up with chartreuse three-inch plastics. The wind has really stirred up the lake.

FISH LAKE — Mackinaw fishing has slowed down but the fishing is still good. Use electronics to locate the fish in 60- to 100-feet of water and vertically jig with a spoon or maribou jig. The ice is off most of the lake.

PROVO RIVER — Lots

help lead BYU to its sixth petition against HCAAC foes to is to put together a good com- This weekend, her objective could compete." It gave me confidence that I Championships) and I liked it. tournament (the Rolex Indoor some success in a regional assessed. "Last fall, I had I have in the past," Young turity and working harder than "It is experience, a little ma- believes in herself more." Was as good as she is. Now, she wasn't really convinced she "I think in the past she shots at critical times. come up with unbelievable ability to hang in there and country. She's done that on the several of the top players in the

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Only a charred shell of a boat remains after it caught fire on U.S. 40 north of Heber City on Tuesday. The efforts of the Heber Valley Fire Department did little to stop the fire in the fiberglass boat once it was underway. The boat was a total loss.

Fire Destroys Boat on Way to Deer Creek

17 May 1989
Fire gutted an outboard motor boat, on U.S. 40 at the Midway turnoff Tuesday afternoon.

The cause of the fire is unknown, reported Wasatch County Fire Chief Jerry Davis. He ruled out a cigarette tossed from the vehicle because neither of the occupants smoke. However, that doesn't mean it couldn't have been caused by a discarded cigarette from a passing motorist, he said.

Dick Siddoway and a friend were towing the boat from Salt Lake

City to Deer Creek Reservoir to put his boat on the water for the first time this year, when a semi truck driver behind them called their attention to the fire. Siddoway pulled off the highway and the fire department was called at 4:25. Although firefighters had the fire contained by 4:40, according to Davis, they couldn't save the boat.

Davis estimated that the boat was worth between \$5,000 and \$6,500.

Lake trout take trading Deer Creek

6-15-89

By K.C. INFANGER
Had Correspondent
PRO RIVER — Fair fishing at the Olmstead Diversion with a size one brass Mepps retrieved downstream just above the bottom. Fly fishing has been better with nymphs. Tan and light cream green are the best colors.

DEER CREEK — Fishing has been generally slow but you can get there between 6:00 in the morning. There has been some excellent with many fish in the three pound class be

on a yellow head
Carter Sp... down one
color and... ader.

GRE... Excellent
late... with light
tan... Nymph
fisud... with or-

AV... Early
ing... fish-
has... from the
ack... Wooby
m... up with a
up... six-foot
roll... agen

(See Page)



John Best photo

Jamie Roper's almost as big as the fish she caught. Jamie Roper, 13, of Orem, was fishing on Flamire recently. She landed an impressive mackinac. Jamie says it was a struggle and her father says it was a struggle holding and keeping her in the boat.

Despite Exceptional Rescue Efforts Grantsville Man Drowns At Deer Creek

7 July 1989

A 60-year-old Grantsville man on a family outing died of apparent drowning at Deer Creek Reservoir last Thursday evening.

Wasatch County Sheriff Edd Thacker reported the victim, LeRoy Soelberg, had

launched his boat at the Island Boat Camp and was taking it to join his family near Snow's Boat Camp in a nearby cove when he apparently had trouble with the boat, possibly a problem with the plug. He dived under water several times when onlookers noticed he had been under too long.

Sheriff Thacker said Steve Mills, Salt Lake City, waded out, found Soelberg in the water and pulled him to shore. He and Shauna Seely, Taylorsville, started CPR but couldn't leave him to go for help. After about 25 minutes they were able to flag down a U.S. Forest Service ranger on a nearby highway.

The three put Soelberg on a boat and continued CPR until they returned to the dock where they were met by an ambulance, the sheriff said. Soelberg was taken to Wasatch County Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Sheriff Thacker said of Mill and Seely, "They did a super job. Everything they did was commendable. They tried hard."



Rescuers rush a 60-year-old Grantsville man to Wasatch County Hospital. Despite exceptional rescue efforts, he was unable to be saved.



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Large trout taken trolling Deer Creek

By REX C. INFANGER

Herald Correspondent
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DEER CREEK — Fishing has been generally slow but if you can get there between 5:00 and 6:00 in the morning, there has been some excellent fishing with many fish in the two to three pound class being taken

on a yellow with red head Carter Spoon. Fish down one color and use a long leader.

GREEN RIVER — Excellent late afternoon fishing with light tan mayfly imitators. Nymph fishing has been good with or- ange scud imitators.

STRAWBERRY — Early morning and late evening fish- ing has been the best from the boats. Troll a black Woolley Worm on monofilament with a single split shot up six-feet from the fly or troll a green frog Carter Spoon.

(See FISHING, Page E2)



John Best photo

Jamie Roper's smile was almost as big as the fish she caught. Jamie and her father, Paul Roper, of Orem, were fishing on Flaming Gorge recently when the 13-year-old girl landed an impressive 24-pound mackinaw. Jamie said the fish was a struggle to bring in and her father says it was a struggle holding on to Jamie and keeping her in the boat.

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